



Dear Residents and Business Owners of Santa Barbara County:

Under the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), jurisdictions in California were required to divert at least 50 percent of their waste from landfills by the end of 2000. The County of Santa Barbara, encompassing the unincorporated areas of the County and the City of Goleta, has diverted 69 percent of its waste, thereby exceeding the State of California's mandate. Our diversion rate is based on our most recent data that we submitted in 2006 to the California Integrated Waste Management Board for its certification.

Without the cooperation and participation of the community, however, the County of Santa Barbara could not have met the AB 939 mandate. Although attaining a diversion rate of 69 percent is impressive, much more can be done. Therefore, we will continue working with the community to expand our existing programs and to add new programs wherever possible.

As part of this effort, we implemented a mandatory Commercial Recycling Program for businesses and multi-family dwellings in the unincorporated areas of the County. The program has been very successful, with approximately 99 percent of business and rental property owners participating. Many of these owners have realized cost savings, as a result of paying less for trash service due to a reduction in their trash volume.

In order to maintain and increase the County's diversion rate, residents need to continue to recycle at home, at work, at recreational facilities, and when they are remodeling. By using this Recycling Resource Guide (Guide), you will find useful information and resources to help you learn how to prevent the creation of waste, and to reuse or recycle products and materials that you have used. Also, for business and rental property owners who have yet to begin recycling, the Guide contains a step-by-step process for starting a recycling program.

If you have any questions or suggestions for improving the Guide, please contact the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division at (805) 882-3600 or send an e-mail message to anakash@cosbpw.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Schleich".

MARK SCHLEICH, Deputy Director
Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division